

Byssus Skipper *Problema byssus*

Habitat Preference: Tall-grass prairie

Threats:

- Loss of habitat
 - Conversion of prairie to agricultural and urban development
- Loss of host plants
- Use of pesticides

Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Maintain prairie through multiple management techniques
 - Mechanical tree removal
 - Mowing
 - Haying
 - Grazing
 - Prescribed Fire: Any given areas should be broken up into several burn units and burned on a rotational basis of no more than every 3-5 years. By burning one unit and leaving the other units unburned refuge is created for byssus skippers.
- All management techniques should be applied at various times of the year to eliminate continual impact of one stage of life.
- Caterpillars feed on grasses such as eastern grama grass. Adults feed on nectar of forbs. When creating a new seeding consider including forbs that bloom throughout mid-late summer to create a constant food source.



Photograph by: Harlan Radcliff